



ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

"MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUME 4 NO. 2

"**MUSEUM SPARKS**" is a quarterly newsletter for the Friends of the Antique Wireless Museum and AWA Technology Explorers. Our welcome to our new members! We are very pleased to have you join AWA. Thanks for your support of the AWA Museum. Each quarter, "**MUSEUM SPARKS**" will provide general information, latest news, new exhibits and happenings at the Museum. "**MUSEUM SPARKS**" will be posted on the AWA web site at www.antiquewireless.org for convenient referral.

Hi Everyone,

Well, here we are starting the 8th month of being in the "Groundhog Day" movie or as it is commonly called COVID-19. It has been quite the daily grind. I hope this finds you well and safe.

IMPACT OF COVID-19:

It certainly has changed a lot in our lives and also at AWA. It has meant the cancelation of virtually all public events. In March, New York cases soared downstate and all Museums in New York were closed to staff and public. It has meant cancelation of the Spring Meet, the spring Learn It, Build It, Fix It classes for adults, the spring Radio Fab Lab classes for students, the AWA Annual Conference, school class visitations, and the 2020 After Hours at the Museum series.

The Finger Lakes Region of NY was reopened for Phase 4 in mid-July. With a major effort to establish policies and sanitization procedures that meet NY State guidelines, we reopened the campus for AWA Staff at mid-July and the Museum for the public on August 4th by appointment only. Many thanks to Mike Migliaccio and the AWA Safety Committee for their hard work.

The Museum has been sanitized and we have been receiving guests by appointment. Those appointments are not just limited to Tuesdays or Saturdays. If you would like to visit the Museum, please call 585-257-5119 and leave a voicemail message with your name, telephone number, requested date of your visit, the number in your party and we will return your call. We ask that you give us at least a five day notice so we can arrange for volunteer staff to be at the Museum for your visit. You may also make a

reservation on the AWA website at <https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/museum-visitation/>. Please come visit us. We miss you!!

ANNUAL AWA CONFERENCE:

Unfortunately we had to cancel the 2020 AWA Conference due to COVID-19. Thanks to many of the scheduled Conference presenters who provided their Power Point presentation and recorded their narrative, Mark Erdle, Deputy Director, was able to post those presentations on AWA's YouTube channel. You can review the list of conference videos and many other interesting AWA videos at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLTogcYJemH767GmCRNo5n4mryV1Ssg0c>.

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES:

LEARN IT, BUILD IT, FIX IT CLASS

The Learn It, Build It, Fix it Class is a series of five four-hour classes for adults on the theory of audio amplifiers and the construction of a tube guitar amplifier kit. The class is being taught by Dave Minchella, KE2GE, a local expert in audio amplifier design and repair. To date, the five participants have participated in four out the five classes and now in the construction phase. They tell me they are thoroughly enjoying the course.





We are planning the next series of LIBIFI classes to focus on audio amplifiers and building a tube audio amplifier kit. These class will be scheduled in January.

RADIO FAB LAB CLASSES:

Due to the restrictions on schools caused by COVID-19, students have had to make many adjustments in their studies and schedules. As a result, the AWA Museum decided to postpone the fall 2020 Radio Fab Lab classes until February 2021. If you have already registered, we will contact you directly. While this postponement is unfortunate, we're excited and ready for February!

WHAT IS NEW AT THE MUSEUM:

I am pleased to announce that AWA has received a major artifact donation from the Ralph and Elinor Williams Collection "Voice of the Twenties" Museum. The Williams family has donated enough artifacts for AWA to create a Ralph and Elinor Williams Memorial Exhibit in the Museum.

Long time AWA member, Ralph was acknowledged as the world expert on Atwater Kent, one of the most prominent manufacturers of radios in the 1920's and 1930's. Ralph wrote the AWA Review Vol 12 on AK which is regarded as the gold standard book detailing all AK models and products. The Williams personal collection is outstanding and unbelievable. We are very fortunate that the Williams family has generously donated a significant cross section of the collection for public display in the Museum.

Museum Staff has a busy project ahead to develop the wonderful donation into an exhibit.

Recently, AWA received an interesting exhibit of a large variety of tubes. That exhibit is housed in three large cases and is now on display.



AWA HAS A NEW WEBSITE:

Have you visited our new AWA website? Through the heroic efforts of AWA's webmaster Richard Neidich and many other contributors you may now enjoy the new AWA Website. The URL remains www.AntiqueWireless.org. The new site has many new features for you to explore. When you get a chance, take it for a test drive and enjoy! And, THANKS RICHARD!

LET'S GROW AWA MEMBERSHIPS:

Let's Grow AWA Together! And, Have Some Fun!

If You Believe in AWA... Accept the Challenge!

And the AWA Member who buys the most dollar amount of gift memberships
will win \$50 to spend at the Museum Store!

The challenge is to help introduce 200 new members to AWA.

- 🎁 Thoughtful gift for a friend, that's heard about AWA from you.
- 🎁 Encouraging gift for your friend to share the fun, fellowship and learning offered by AWA.
- 🎁 A fun gift to spark their interest in communication history.
- 🎁 A meaningful gift for a young person to spark their interest in electronics and technology.

If you believe in AWA.....Give a gift...or two...or more! As a current AWA member, you may purchase as many gift memberships as you like. Gift recipients must not have held AWA membership during the past three years. Gift rates are good for their first year of membership only. Offer expires December 31, 2020.

You may choose from two different types of gifts, both good for the new member's first year of membership (you may order as many of each type as you would like):

- 🎁 \$30 – new member receives four quarterly AWA Journals and one annual AWA Review mailed to their home
- 🎁 \$20 – new member has read only, on-line access to the four quarterly AWA Journals and annual AWA Review

Please enter my order for _____ gifts at \$30 each and for _____ gifts at \$20 each. My check or payment information for a total of \$_____ is enclosed

To order: You may order online at <https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/gift-memberships/> or you can email this form when complete to Dean@AntiqueWireless.org. AWA accepts PayPal at WM3D@ARRL.net. For mail-in orders, please complete this form, enclose your check or credit card information and send to: AWA Gift Memberships, PO Box 421, Bloomfield, New York 14469.

Be sure to include your name and address. AWA will send a gift card, welcoming letter and new member information to each gift recipient. Questions? Email Dean@AntiqueWireless.org

YOUR Name: _____

YOUR Address: _____

YOUR Phone Number: _____

YOUR Email: _____

Payment by:

_____ PayPal to WM3D@ARRL.net

_____ Check enclosed payable to Antique Wireless Association

_____ Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

RECIPIENTS Name: _____

RECIPIENTS Address: _____

RECIPIENTS Phone Number (if known): _____

RECIPIENTS Email Address (if known): _____

Type of Gift Membership: \$30 _____ or \$20 _____ to be applied to a one-year membership for this recipient.

Please list additional recipient's gifts on a separate sheet. THANK YOU!

AWA WEB SITE and SOCIAL MEDIA:

For ongoing contact information, membership applications, news, announcements, program schedules, AWA history, and lots of useful links to other radio sites, please visit

Web Site: www.antiquewireless.org

AWA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum

AWA Staff is working to enlarge our reach on social media thanks to efforts of Mark Erdle and Criss Onan.

AWA Twitter handle is @antiquewireless

AWA Instagram name is @antiquewirelessmuseum

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT AWA:

Did you know that the AWA and AWA Museum are operated by a 100% volunteer staff? We are always looking for volunteers at AWA and especially historians to conduct Museum tours. You do not need to be an engineer or a historian. We will train you and what a great way to learn all about the history of 200

years of communications technology. In addition, the Museum Staff works at the Museum on Tuesdays doing a wide variety of work. If you would like to come out and volunteer, we can always use your help. Just call me at 585-314-7310 or call the Museum at 585-257-5119 and leave a voice mail message. It is fun and very rewarding.

UNTIL NEXT TIME:

Everyone please be careful and stay well. As time goes by, human nature is treat the pandemic as “old hat” and become more lax in our day-to-day lives. COVID-19 is serious and needs to be treated as serious. But, this too will pass. And, it will pass more quickly if we all adhere to the medical recommendations. Keep safe my friends.

Bob Hobday

Director

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